

**REMARKS**

The Office action of August 10, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner during a telephone conference on August 2, 2004. During the conference, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the allowability of the claims. The Examiner sent out a suggested Examiner's amendment to amend the claims to obtain allowance of the application. Representative agreed to consider the suggested amendment.

Claims 1-7, 9-10, and 12-23 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 12, and 16 have been deemed allowable. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9-10, 13-16, and 20-23 have been amended. Claims 8 and 11 have been canceled. The rejection of claims 1-4, 6-7, 8-10, 13-15, and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is noted. While not agreeing with the rejection, the above-mentioned claims noted in the Action have been amended and/or canceled for clarity in accordance with the above-mentioned, suggested Examiner's Amendment to make all remaining claims allowable.

**Conclusion**

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.


Application No. 09/593,522

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 to discuss the application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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